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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

14 Jun

94LA0193A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Jun 94 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday at 0900 chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri and immediately took its agenda. The reason for the delay in the open session was the ethics lesson from His Holiness Ayatollah Ja'far Sobhani, a member of the faculty at Qom Seminary.

What follows is the detailed proceedings of the Majles, to which we direct the attention of our esteemed readers.

Deputy From Jahrom's Question to Minister of Agriculture

The first item on the agenda was the question from Mohammad Taqi-Shoja'i, deputy from Jahrom, to the minister of agriculture concerning the Ministry of Agriculture's failure to make the guaranteed purchases of Jahrom's citrus fruits and dates.

The question says: In view of the Majles legislation of the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] concerning the purchase of citrus fruits and dates at guaranteed prices, why haven't the dates of Jahrom been purchased yet, when about 15,000 tons of dates are spoiling?

Minister of Agriculture's Answer

Dr. Kalantari, in answer to the above questions, gave a speech in which he said: The law provides that the price be set based on the finished cost of the crop and a suitable profit so that agricultural crops can compete with other goods. However, we always make the mistake of comparing the finished cost of the crop with the farmer's cost of living. The farmers expect their crops to be bought at a price that will pay their cost of living. This is contrary to the Majles legislation, and even if we did set the price on this basis the finished cost of the crop would be extraordinarily high and would not be affordable to the consumer. Consequently, the government would either have to pay a subsidy or market the crop at such a high price that we think it would not be consumed. We are not required by the Guaranteed Purchases Law to buy crops at a price where no matter how much a farmer produces, he will be able to manage his life.

The minister of agriculture discussed the problem of dates, noting that in the year 1372 the Majles approved legislation under which new crops would be purchased on a guaranteed basis from farmers. He said: The expert work on this matter takes a long time. We cannot buy all the dates at a guaranteed price. We now have about 30 kinds of commercial dates in the country. The Ministry of Agriculture finally announced the guaranteed prices to the Plan and Budget Organization on 6/13/1372 [4 September 1993] after careful research, which lasted about two and one-half months beginning 7 Tir 1372 [28 June 1993].

The Economic Council designates the organization buying the crops at the guaranteed price, and it also sets the price and the necessary credits for the purchase. After the guaranteed purchases were announced to the Economic Council, pursuant to actions by the farmers themselves, the governors-general and the respected deputies, on 6/23/1372 [14 September 1993], 7/8/1372 [30 September 1993], 8/5/1372 [27 October 1993], 8/27/1372 [18 November 1993], 10/18/1372 [8 January 1994], 11/9/1372 [29 January 1994], and 2/3/1373 [23 April 1994], we pursued this matter.

Apart from the dates, we had another problem, which was that unfortunately the Plan and Budget Organization did not place this issue on the Economic Council's list of priorities, and the guaranteed purchase of dates has not yet come up at that council so the guaranteed price can be announced to the farmers. We are not to blame for this.

After the speech by the minister of agriculture, the deputy from Jahrom said: I thank the minister of agriculture. In my view he did his job, but under the guidelines I cannot put the question to anyone else.

He then discussed the problems with the date trees bearing fruit. He said: It takes 20 years for a date tree to bear fruit. The water must come from a depth in the ground of 350 to 400 meters, and agricultural experts say that the most desirable type of date is the shahani date, which is what is grown in Jahrom and the surrounding municipalities.

Shoja-Fard noted that more than 15,000 tons of dates are going to ruin, and the relevant organizations must think about that. He added: In their studies on investments, some experts have said that in Jahrom more investments have been made than at the Mobarakeh Steel Complex.

Continuing, the deputy from Jahrom said: I have not been satisfied at all in this matter.

In conclusion, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said concerning the question to the minister of agriculture: In view of the fact that Dr. Kalantari had time to answer again, he said that the question should go to the relevant commission. While Mr. Shoja-Fard says that he (the minister of agriculture) did his job, since the question must be put to the minister, it will therefore be referred to the Articles 88 and 90 Commission to determine who is to blame for not implementing the law.

Details of the Procedures for Studying and Approving the Five-Year Plan Bill

The second item on the agenda was continued consideration of the details of the very urgent motion on the Procedures for Studying and Approving the Five-Year Plan Bill, six articles of which were approved by the

deputies, and whose continued consideration was deferred to the next session.

Article 1: To develop and create coordination between the Majles specialist commissions, the Compound Commission will be formed composed of members of the Plan and Budget Commission in addition to each of the specialist commissions with the exception of the Domestic Guidelines Commission and the Commission to Study Laws Before the Revolution.

Article 2: The general form of the Five-Year Plan and all the notes that are relevant to overall goals and the basic policy will be studied and approved in the first consultation, and the rest will be studied and approved in the second consultation.

Note: The measures enacted in the first consultation are not subject to revision.

Article 3: The specialist commissions are required to do the necessary studies of the articles and notes pertaining to them in a maximum period of two weeks, and at the end of that period to send a report on their work in the first consultation to the Compound Commission.

Article 4: Within three weeks of collecting the reports from the specialist commissions and amending and combining them, the Compound Commission must present its comprehensive report to the open session.

Article 6 [as published]: In the second consultation the specialist commissions are required to study the notes and supplements in the framework of the materials issued by the Compound Commission, and to present their reports to the Compound Commission in no more than two weeks.

Deputy From Ahvaz's Memo to Minister of the Interior

At yesterday's open Majles session Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, deputy from Ahvaz, issued a memo concerning implementation of the note to Article 102 of the Law To Prevent Actions at Weddings in Violation of Religious Law and Public Decency.

Election of One Person to Supervise Political Parties Law

Concerning Majles oversight of the Law on Political Party Activity, which is being formed in the Ministry of the Interior Article 10 Commission, the Majles speaker asked the deputies to give to the Councils and National Domestic Affairs Commission the names of their candidates, whether inside or outside the Majles, within one week so they can be presented before the election that is to be held in the open session (meaning 7 Tir [28 June]).

15 Jun

94LA0194A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Jun 94 p 7

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held an open session yesterday with Dr. Ruhani presiding, and the deputies from Marand, Behbahan, Kermanshah, Ahvaz, and Esfahan made speeches. Then the Majles went into session. The details follow for our honorable readers.

Ebrahim Sarrat, Deputy From Marand

The first preagenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Sarraf, the deputy from Marand, who referred to the presence of the people in the anniversary ceremonies of the death of the Imam and said: The people of Azarbaijan are most enthusiastically ready to welcome the president to their region and count the moments before that time.

Addressing the minister of interior and stating that achieving freedom is an instinctive human wish, he said: The establishment of the new province indicates that the officials feel responsible for the development of their province, aside from the fact that it will have some financial burden, as it should have. Hence, in line with the measures taken by the government to eliminate poverty and revitalize the oppressed region, the establishment of the border province of northern Azarbaijan is necessary.

The speaker mentioned the successes of the city of Marand and requested the help of the minister of petroleum concerning the inauguration of the natural gas outreach project in the region, the minister of energy about providing water for one of the areas in his constituency, the director of the Social Security Organization concerning the start of the construction of the 120-bed Marand Hospital, and the minister of construction jihad concerning the transfer of nationalized lands of the existing plains in the region.

Lotfollah Zare'i-Qanavati, Deputy From Behbahan

The next speaker was Zare'i-Qanavati from Behbahan, who referred to the fact that we are at the start of examining the Economic, Social, and Cultural Developmental Plan bill and said: The honorable deputies must use all their ability and energy and make use of the experiences gained from the First Developmental Plan. The areas that have been able to achieve their goals must be strengthened in the Second Developmental Plan, and those that have been unable to achieve their goal must be examined and the reasons announced in order for the noble people to be informed about the weaknesses and strengths of the First Developmental Plan.

He continued: What becomes clear in the totality of the studies is that the exports of agricultural goods and carpets compared to the exports of industrial and mining goods and pharmaceutical products have been better able to help achieve the goals of the plan.

While in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], exports of agricultural goods and carpets have been 23 percent and 48.8 percent above the goals of the plan, respectively, the export of industrial and mining goods were 65.3 percent and 82 percent below the goals of the plan.

Despite the positive growth of production in the agricultural sector, investments in this sector have had a negative growth.

Also, in connection with such American consumer goods as Coca-Cola and Winston and Marlboro cigarettes, which have flooded the markets of Islamic Iran, and the ugly scenes of advertisement for these products in the stores, the speaker said: What is the use of converting the unnecessary American consumer goods into dollars? What the United States wants of us is to assert its economic domination. When it makes us economically dependent, other dependencies will follow.

Zare'i-Qanavati then referred to the barbaric and hostile history of the United States with Islamic Iran and said: Can our nation forget so many American crimes? We can be sure that as long as we are loyal to the goals of the revolution, the criminal United States will continue its conspiracies to eliminate us.

Allow the noble and intelligent nation to follow the Imam and the leader in its public spirit of fighting the criminal United States, since this is in the interest of Islam.

Continuing, the speaker referred to the praiseworthy action of the government in regards to price labels and said: I request of the Ministry of Commerce, which is responsible for the implementation of this plan, to be serious in its efforts and to be persistent so that there is no misconception that the government is weak. This action is the first phase of the task, and in the second phase clear regulations of pricing must be implemented and the tradespeople forced to implement them.

He added: The uncontrolled increase in prices under the pretext of economic modification must be prevented. I accept the government reasoning that prices must become realistic in order to prevent social corruption, so that so much medicine and fuel is not smuggled out of the country. But if modification is done in the salaries and wages of employees and workers in proportion to the modification in prices, no one will object to modification.

In conclusion, the deputy from Behbahan said in connection with unnecessary expenditures and unnecessary travels: I read in the newspapers that the Iranian delegation participating in the nonaligned conference in Egypt was comprised of 40 people of whom 16 were journalists. And that is for a conference about which there is nothing serious to say now. Our delegation was the third largest participant. I ask the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide the necessary explanations to eliminate the doubts.

Ayatollah Musavi, Deputy From Kermanshah

Another preagenda speaker was Musavi from Kermanshah, who said: What has remained for us in the country as our glory is the 'Ashura of Hoseyn, which teaches us lessons in honor, bravery, patriotism, and worshipping God. At the present the appalling materialistic world headed by the criminal United States has engaged in spilling the blood of God-worshipping men and in every corner has started a sea of the blood of innocent Muslims.

He added: I must say that the government and the officials must be alert to the fact that if, God forbid, hardship and dissatisfaction rule a society and people are materially and spiritually unable to achieve their rights and are under the pressure of unemployment and high prices, they will inevitably suffer thousands of destructive problems. I saw with my own eyes that my constituency, which has many resources in terms of water, soil, farming, animal husbandry, and other production affairs, the strong young people have become weak and helpless due to lack of attention.

Stating that our people are not afraid of the slogans of the enemies, he expressed his condolences and those of his constituency in regards to the martyrdom of Imam Hoseyn.

He pointed out: The martyr-nurturing Muslim people of the province of Kermanshah are counting the minutes until the visit of the grand leader.

He said: Considering the long lines of wheat trucks last year in front of the silos of the city of Kermanshah and the frustration of the farmers at having to wait, I request of the minister of commerce to provide the means to transport the wheat of the city of Kermanshah directly to other provinces as soon as possible.

Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, Deputy From Ahvaz

The next speaker was Seyyed Ahmad Musavi from Ahvaz, who spoke about the week of obligation to instruct to do good and prohibit evil and said: Life without instructing to do good and prohibiting evil is the same as death and misery, and by revitalizing it, there is life and dignity. Islam becomes either stable or weak through it, and the Islamic revolution without that obligation cannot continue its path, especially at a time when the enemies of Islam and the revolution, planning and spending billions of tumans, engage in instructing to do evil and preventing good, that is, cultural invasion.

He continued: The grand leader of the revolution in Moharram of 1371 [1992] stated the dangers of cultural invasion by the enemy with heartfelt concern. I hope that the officials of the Basij after the passage of two years and the ratification of the law of judicial support for the Basijis present to the people a report on the steps taken.

The speaker then asked the Voice and Vision, the [Ministry of] Education, and the government offices to do their grave duty in the best possible manner.

He continued: It is necessary that in Moharram we all respond to this question together, which is, Why did the great revolution of the Prophet, which came to fruition with so much self-sacrifice suffer problems such that

after the death of the Prophet, Imam 'Ali faced those wars and Imam Hasan and Imam Hoseyn were martyred by the followers of the Prophet? The answer to this question can be a warning to us to identify the blights of the revolution as soon as possible and remove them in order to prevent being forced to take the followers of Hoseyn to slaughter in order to preserve the revolution.

Pointing out that one of the blights of the revolution of the Prophet was that gradually the level of spirituality was lowered and material attractions replaced spiritual attractions; the people passed over evil acts with indifference; religious zeal had weakened; and the obligation to instruct to do good and prohibit evil was forgotten, the speaker said: The same blight threatens our revolution. We must think about the revolution and making God and his Prophet happy and not the gratification of international organizations, because these organizations cannot be gratified until we implement all their policies.

Musavi then thanked the Headquarters for the Obligation To Instruct To Do Good and Prohibit Evil of the Province of Khuzestan for their sincere services and efforts and referring to the great success of this headquarters described some of the success of this headquarters.

Regarding the plan to implement superior veiling, superior veiling means the chador that was approved by the late Imam and the grand leader and that in some cities of Khuzestan was about to be completely abolished and forgotten. Upon the request of the people, effective steps have been taken to revive this Mohammadan tradition.

The deputy from Ahvaz said in this connection: The deputies of the people of Khuzestan published a message in the Assembly of Experts which was enhanced by the signatures of Ayatollah Jannati and Ayatollah Mesbah-Yazdin in support of superior veiling.

In continuation, Musavi said to those who have not yet implemented this plan or are trying to oppose it: I call to their attention the messages of the scholars to the people of Khuzestan.

He then read the letter of Ayatollah Ja'far Sobhani praising the God-pleasing actions of the Headquarters for the Obligation To Instruct To Do Good and Prohibit Evil of Khuzestan in connection with superior veiling and said: I remember that the late Imam was asked about nonsuperior veiling. In Paris, he said, that veiling is good for Europe, not for Iran and the cradle of Shi'ite Islam.

Hasan Kamran-Dastjerdi, Deputy of Esfahan

The last preagenda speaker was Kamran, the deputy from Esfahan, who thanked Ayatollah Jannati for establishing the Headquarters for the Obligation To Instruct To Do Good and Prohibit Evil and said: The deputies can also have an effective role in this headquarters. And merely honoring this week is of no use. The grand leader said: "Oral instruction and prohibition that is more effective than holy war must become common among the people. Obviously, if this initiative is acted upon, local vulnerability will decrease."

He added: "On the one hand, the dangerous prohibitions must be identified." The grand leader said: "The goal of instructing to do good and preventing evil will cause the opposition of the nonpious and the evil in the nation, and the propagation of this divine obligation in the society will prevent their domination. For this purpose, making use of deep political understanding, the dangerous evil acts must be identified and made known to the people. He mentioned one of the dangerous evil acts as the distance between the officials and the people and said: If a person does not have security in an organization or office to instruct doing good and preventing evil, is that not a dangerous prohibited act? Should such an individual or individuals who create such a situation not be dealt with frankly? One of the great evil acts is discrimination in the implementation of justice or in the implementation of religious injunctions. If we are unable to instruct and prevent those in power, we had better not deal with the weak people either, for this is also one kind of prohibited act. Wheeling and dealing that stops the truth is one of the dangerous evils. Also, lack of sensitivity towards the United States is the same. Of course, attending to the self-sacrificers is a good act, as is support for the liberation movements.

Kamran made it explicit: Essentially, in the organizations, decorations, ponds, useless seminars, ignoring cultural invasion, subsidies for treatment, publications and books that propagate Western and liberal ideas, slow work by the press, weakening the Hezbollah artists, and fondness for the World Development Bank are among the clear examples of prohibited acts.

In conclusion, the deputy from Esfahan said: Mobilization, this old friend of the revolution, must be strengthened in order to do its work on all levels. Mobilization in truth does not have the necessary or sufficient tools. If the Judicial Branch deals with criminals in a timely manner, it certainly can create a sound climate. In one word, ignoring instruction to do good and prohibiting evil will weaken the practical obligation of religious guardianship. If it is by the officials, it is an especially unforgivable sin.

Ratifications

Continuation of the Examination of the Proposal on the Procedures To Examine the Second Plan

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the continuation of the examination of the details of the very urgent proposal on the procedures to examine the Developmental Plan, of which the remaining articles were ratified by the deputies, as follows:

Article 7. The Arrangement Committee, after receiving the reports on the second round of discussions of the expert committees, shall be responsible for amending and arranging them within a maximum of three weeks and

presenting the final report to the Majles for examination and ratification in the second round of discussions.

Article 8. The deputies may offer their suggestions in the first and second rounds of discussions within the times announced to them by the expert committees and be present in the committee for explanations at the determined times.

Article 9. In the first and second rounds of discussions, first the suggestions related to the expert committees and then the suggestions of the deputies concerning the single article and the notes can be examined.

Note. The report of the expert committees, the report of the Arrangement Committee, and the suggestions of deputies that have gone to the related expert committees to explain their suggestions must be distributed among the deputies 72 hours prior to the first round or second round of discussions.

Article 10. The procedure to examine the general points and the suggestions of the first and second round, the formation of a committee, and any subject that has not been stated in this part of the bylaws shall be in accordance with the usual regulations of the bylaws.

Article 11. This law shall be mandatory immediately upon ratification.

Urgency of the Proposal To Transfer the Duties of the Cooperatives and Rural Handwoven Carpet Unions to the Construction Jihad

The second item on the agenda was the proposal to transfer all the duties related to the establishment of administration and supervision of cooperatives and rural handwoven carpet unions to the Ministry of Construction Jihad, which was discussed as urgent.

Engineer Qomi, one of the designers of the proposal, said: This proposal was made after considering the positive operation of the Construction Jihad in regards to carpets and handicrafts, since the Jihad has had success in developing this sector throughout the country and has been able to create an acceptable level of employment throughout the country in a short period of time, also because it has made a great deal of effort at an acceptable standard throughout the country to develop this authentic Iranian industry, and since essentially carpets are woven mostly in villages and oppressed regions of the country because there is an abundant work force and we have no factories there to create jobs. Also, basically the carpet industry fits our culture.

He then said: In this connection, it is not necessary to start a new organization. At the present time, the [Ministry of Construction] Jihad is actively present in the villages of the country and can make the best use of the existing organization. Ultimately, if we transfer this sector of the industry to the [Ministry of Construction] Jihad, we will see it thrive and also benefit from their experiences. After the opposing and supporting speeches, the urgency of the proposal was put to a vote and ratified.

Amendment of the Bill on the Establishment of General and Revolution Courts

The last item on the agenda was the bill on the establishment of general and revolution courts ratified on 23/01/1373 [12 April 1994] (returned from the Council of Guardians), of which the amendment was ratified by the Majles.

The note to Article 6 was omitted to conform to the opinion of the Council of Guardians.

The above-mentioned note states: The qualifications of judges, their confirmation, level, and limitations of competence, and the procedures regarding their work shall be based on bylaws to be prepared by the Ministry of Justice and ratified by the head of the Judicial Branch.

Paragraph 9 of Article 19 was omitted.

"Both sides of the dispute would not have given up their right for appeal in writing."

The following text was attached as Note 2 to Article 19.

Note 2. Concerning the instances stated in this article, if both sides of the dispute relinquish their right to appeal in writing, their request for appeal cannot be heard.

Article 20 was amended as follows:

Article 20. In order to review the rulings of the general and revolution courts, in the capital of every province the necessary number of review courts composed of a chairman and two consulting members will be established. The court session will be official with the presence of two members. After examining the nature of the case, the vote of the majority, which is written by the chairman or a consulting member, will be final and mandatory.

One note was added to Article 24.

"Note. The ruling will be final if it is not one of the three instances stated in Article 18."

Article 31 was amended as follows:

"The convicted may request of the prosecutor general an examination of the final ruling of any of the courts that can be appealed within one month from the date of the issuance of the ruling."

Article 31 was amended as follows:

"Determining the competence or lack of competence of every court concerning the dispute is the responsibility of the same court that is legally responsible to examine the case."

Closed Session of the Majles Deputies With the Minister of Commerce

The Majles held a closed, unofficial session on Tuesday afternoon.

In this session, the minister of commerce responded to the questions of the deputies of the Majles concerning the various stages of the plan for the pricing of goods and explained the implemental mechanisms, the decisions taken, and the system of supervision over this plan, which will be implemented with the cooperation of the guilds and unions.

Mr. Al-e Eshaq said in this meeting: In the first phase, labeling the existing prices, and in the second phase labeling the determined prices shall be carried out by the Economic Council, the Protection Organization, and the guilds. The mechanism for pricing shall be based on the considerations of the day and a reasonable process. This does not mean fixed prices. Rather, prices will be appropriate and realistic. In the third phase there will be control, supervision, and dealing with various violating units.

Seyyed Jalal Sadatian the deputy from Hamedan and one of the speakers of the session said about the questions of the deputies: The question at issue for the deputies was, How far reaching will this control and supervision be and what is the level of guarantee and support for the implementation of this plan?

The minister of commerce responded: To implement the plan to price goods, there are sufficient guarantees and the necessary mechanisms have been taken into consideration. In support of this plan, a council has been established with the participation of the president and 12 ministers. In this council, the representatives of the grand leader and the guilds society, the directors of the assemblies of production and distribution guild affairs, and the advisor to the president for guild affairs are also members.

The deputy from Hamedan added: In this session, the minister of commerce was asked, "Considering the fluctuations of the rate of foreign currency, how can pricing be done?"

Mr. Al-e Eshaq responded: The argument is not to have fixed prices and to announce a permanent rate and implement it. Rather, the process of pricing shall be based on the needs and necessities of the society and will be reasonable and appropriate. The goal is to eliminate the present disorder regarding prices.

The minister of commerce, in response to the question of whether or not the pricing plan is to leave the modification plan behind, said: This action is complementary to the modification plan. The goal of the plan is to prevent disorder in prices and the pricing of certain goods and the imposition of controls over the prices of certain goods. It will include domestic and imported products as well.

26 Jun

94LA0206A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Jun 94 pp 5, 6

[Text] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division.**

The Majles held a session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding in which a number of deputies made preagenda speeches. The speaker of the Majles then condemned the beastly tragedy of the killing of the pilgrims of the Eighth Imam. Then the Majles went into session, which follows.

Speech of the Speaker of the Majles

The speaker of the Majles offered his condolences with regard to the recent crime of the hypocrites in bombing the safe shrine of Imam Reza and said: On the 'Ashura of Hoseyn, a crime was committed by those blind in heart, one which was unprecedented in the history of the revolution and even in modern history. In this connection, it is necessary for me to make a few points. First, both the hypocrites and those who support the movement of disunity must know that in the days when the revolution and the Islamic regime were but a new plant, it was not uprooted by such incidents as the events of 7 Tir [28 June], 8 Shahrivar [30 August], and the Tehran Friday prayers, not to mention today. And by the grace of God our regime has become a strong, large tree that not only will not shake from such winds but also not even in the face of the horrible storms of the global oppressors. These events make the people and the government more united and determined to continue their fight against global oppressors and their mercenaries and expose even more the ugly faces of these oppressors.

Referring to the choice of the day of 'Ashura and the most sacred place for such a horrible crime, the speaker of the Majles said: This indicates that the disunity movement has become totally hopeless and despairing and has therefore destroyed all the bridges and roads behind it, which proves that it has no hope for its future.

Also referring to the actions of the West after the revolution and their negative propaganda against us and our regime and leaders, Nateq-Nuri added: The West has become a safe house for the enemies of the regime, especially the hypocrites, those Yazids who have committed previous crimes. The West is their safe house, and they receive millions of dollars in aid from the same powers, the Westerners, and they engage in conspiracies.

The speaker of the Majles continued: The Mashhad crime is not only a crime of the hypocrites, and we do not condemn them alone. They are but tools in the hands of global oppressors, and this crime is perpetrated by all those governments who somehow support disunity and the hypocrite movement around the world, particularly the United States and the Westerners.

Pointing out that our people do not believe and pay attention to any of the statements of Western politicians,

he said: If they support human rights and oppose terrorism, why are their countries the safe houses of these criminals?

The speaker of the Majles then said: It is my personal opinion that the West, those supporters of human rights who claim to oppose terrorism in the world and attack us, hopes to make us react and detract from the discussion of their own problems. Unfortunately, sometimes we begin to react. They have no right to question us about human rights. They have no right to question us about terrorism.

The speaker of the Majles then added: The special Human Rights Commission must examine these crimes and investigate and condemn the perpetrators of this crime, though, unfortunately, the source of information for Mr. Galindo Pohl has been these same hypocrites. In my opinion, until they do this, we can have no trust in this special UN commission and must consider all their statements as trifling and deceptive.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Majles, Nateq-Nuri thanked the revered and alert nation, particularly for obeying the religious guardian in regards to the directive he gave, and said: In the previous years, we had self-laceration [qamehzani] in Tehran, Qom, Tabriz, Ardabil, and other places, and there was a great deal of it. But this year, out of obedience to the leader, to be fair, it was not done. Especially in places such as Ardabil, where there had been a great deal of it, we did not even see one report of self-laceration, whereas more than 10,000 cases had occurred last year. Also, the earthquake in Firuzabad, fortunately, caused very few casualties. I offer condolences to those families who suffered the loss of their dear ones and ask the executive organizations to repair and reconstruct as soon as possible, God willing, the earthquake-stricken regions in which more than 2,500 houses were totally demolished and 3,500 houses were 80 percent destroyed.

Seyyed Mohammad Reza Movalizadeh, Deputy From Ahvaz

The first preagenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Movalizadeh, the deputy from Ahvaz, who said: I am not addressing the blind-hearted, darkness-worshipping, unfortunate hypocrites, these mercenaries of foreigners whose sinister eyes cannot stand the bright burning sun of the Islamic revolution and based on their own material ideas drown more and more in the cesspool of darkness, corruption, sex, and decadence, because this sacred podium is much more valuable than to serve to address a bunch of puppets. I am addressing the masters of these poor mercenaries who have reached a dead end, that is, the leaders of the oppressive powers headed by the criminal United States.

He added: I ask them, how far do you want to continue your process of trial and error before you realize your narrow-minded, materialistic analysis in connection with our divine revolution? Is the passage of 30 years not enough to realize the truth? Indeed, what results have you reached in your policy towards the regime of the Islamic Republic? Indeed, on the basis of what logic and reasoning do you act, and by means of what method do you hope to reach your sinister goals? Can one insult the valuable sacred beliefs of a nation and the pure shrine of their Infallible Imam and then attract that nation to itself? Can an innocent nation be made a victim of bloodshed and then believe your claim to be defenders of their rights? Can one engage in such a slaughter of innocent people who are praying and worshipping at noon on 'Ashura, the sacred moment of the martyrdom of Imam Hoseyn, in the most sacred spot in a country, beside the shrine of Imam Reza, and then claim human rights? What false assertions!

Movalizadeh then continued: You must know that our nation becomes more alert and more united with such martyrdom and the sacrifice of such pure blood. It will know you better and better realize the value of its revolution, regime, and leadership.

The deputy of Ahvaz then pointed out: We have stomped the ground strongly. We have clenched our teeth in the wrath of revenge. We have made our chests the target of angry bullets. We have the warm blood of Hoseyn in our swollen veins. We lean on the strong pillar of guardianship. We have passed frequently through the Karbala of fire and blood. How do you think you can make us run away from the field? We address our sacred regime: Oh Islamic Republic, if you drink the blood of my heart, I shall not lose you, since I have gained you with the blood of my heart.

Blood caused the revolution and blood will cause its perpetuation.

Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Hoseyni, Deputy From Tehran

The next speaker was Hoseyni from Tehran, who offered his condolences to the survivors of the martyrs of the Mashhad tragedy in regard to this incident and pointed out: They had taken refuge in this noble and bright shrine to honor the sacred family of the Messenger of God.

It is worthy that the related officials give more care and be more attentive to security issues and the safety of the people and not forget the hostility of the hypocrite and oppressive enemy and its opportunism and unholy deception, because the protection of the safety and the lives of the people, especially in these sacred places, is one of our primary duties.

He thanked the people for their vast participation in the procession to carry the bodies of the martyrs of Mashhad and said: Our brave and great nation, following its great leader, follows the path of God, which is the road to the honor and freedom of human beings. In this way, with its blood and with power and courage, it teaches a lesson of liberation and freedom to all human beings in the world. To quote Imam Hoseyn, it will not sit silently and humbly under the hands of oppressors, but following the Imam of 'Ashura it will rise up. Sitting by humbly is not

living, it is disgrace and death. Rising up and fighting is honor and prosperity in life.

Abolfath Niknam, Deputy From Tonokabon and Ramsar

The next speaker was Niknam from Tonokabon and Ramsar, who said: Economic growth and development require having a goal, essential planning, and efforts to increase production in general and the production of industrial goods in particular. This will bring supply and demand closer and consequently modify prices in the interest of the consumer, increase jobs, and ultimately lead to the peace of mind of the people in the country.

He added: This cannot be achieved except by investing in the use of the talents and production potential of the existing workshops and factories and creating new production workshops and factories toward predetermined goals.

Pointing out that our people have a high potential for investment, Niknam added: Unfortunately, capital is used in the most simple of ways, that is, for the purchase and sale of goods, to such an extent that one item goes through several hands before it reaches the consumer. Because of the ease in generating income with no apparent results, it also has the advantage of hiding income from the sharp eyes of the tax agents and also not being labeled a capitalist.

In continuation, the speaker said: The perpetuation and continuation of this economic method is very unpleasant and harmful while our country is in dire need of using this potential capital for the production of industrial goods and services. Provisions must be made for capital to be used for production.

He also added: The Cabinet and officials must take steps to eliminate the obstacles to production and offer to the Majles legislative, protective, and facilitating bills in regards to production as soon as possible.

Pointing out that in our country supply and demand do not conform to one another and a part of our labor force that is ready to work is unemployed, the deputy from Tonokabon said: Use in proportion to need in order to eliminate the economic backwardness of the country in a desirable manner is a duty, and to achieve it we have no other way but to employ foreign investments, because domestic investments are unable to achieve all aspects of it.

In conclusion, the speaker added: Capital tries to find a safe place, and an investor thinks less about profit than the safety of his capital. Hence, security of investment and the predictability of performance is the duty of a wise person who engages in investments. We must use all our power to benefit from inexpensive capital.

Seyyed Hoseyn Fattahi, Deputy From Mashhad

The next speaker was Fattahi from Mashhad, who spoke in connection with the horrible crime of the hypocrites and said: The cowardly and bloodthirsty fiends violated the safe sanctuary of you, the offspring of the Messenger of God; martyred your pilgrims; and perpetrated a crime in the history of Shiism that made the executioners of history look good by comparison.

He added: Today, in defense of the innocence of the martyrs and the injured in this incident and the depth of the tragedy of the violation of the safe sanctuary of guardianship and the imamate, we must cry out, Oh criminals of history, if you have a religion, at least come to the battle of the followers of Hoseyn face to face and with courage rather than slaughtering defenseless and innocent people blind-heartedly and gutlessly in the safe sanctuary of the Infallible Imam.

Pointing out that the perpetrators of this crime will not be safe from the revenge of the friends of Imam Hoseyn, the speaker added: Where are you, the supporters of human rights? You see the most oppressive death of human beings, but you keep silent. If you are truthful, condemn this incident, condemn the perpetrators of this act of terrorism, and stop your support of them.

Ahmad Nejabat, Deputy From Shiraz

The next speaker was Nejabat from Shiraz, who offered his condolences in the recent crime of the hypocrites in Mashhad and in connection with social justice, said: I testify that after the revolution, considering all the problems, an immeasurable amount of work has been accomplished in this country and I thank all the officials.

Then, addressing the president and the ministers, he said: The people of Shiraz, in terms of self-sacrificers and martyrs, rank second and third in the country. In the political realm, since 15 Khordad [5 June], they have been present on all scenes. In the economic dimension, in terms of wheat, fruit, and rice, they have ranked first, second, and third. And in terms of voting for the president, they have ranked second.

After the revolution, due to political and nonpolitical mistakes and conflicts, the influence of opportunists, and failure to deal with the violators, the province of Fars, especially in Shiraz, has been forgotten in terms of development, education, and health, and the patient, enduring people of Shiraz have not been able to achieve their legal rights. Now that, thank God, there is calm in Shiraz and the province, we must come to the rescue of the province. Thanking the president for his hard work, the speaker added: This year, five villages and districts of Shiraz have been identified as oppressed, and you certainly know that about 30 years ago Shiraz had natural gas pipelines, whereas now 15 percent of Shiraz lacks natural gas pipelines for its oppressed people under the claim that the system is old.

Pointing out that the medical equipment and resources of Shiraz universities are insignificant compared to other universities, Nejabat said: Mr. President, for three years there have been no projects, plans, highways, factories, or railroads to inaugurate. Whereas, during this same

period, three or four times you have gone to similar provinces, and by the blessing of the revolution you have inaugurated large, fundamental projects. He also said: The largest warehouse of communications in the country in Shiraz has gone to ashes, and the guilty party has not been identified. Of the electronic equipment, 75 percent was in Shiraz; and considering the ratification of the government that presented Shiraz as the electronic center of the country, unfortunately, the College of Communications has gone to another province. No attention is being paid to communications factories in regards to production.

The deputy from Shiraz continued: Mr. President, Shiraz ranks 23d in terms of roads. At least give orders to take the Esfahan-Shiraz railroad seriously. If your inspectors and experts determine that justice prevails with regard to distribution, funds, and resources in Shiraz, the good people and I will accept it and pray to God for your good health.

The speaker also requested of the ministers not to make use of individuals who have been unsuccessful in the positions of governor-general, governor, director-general, and university president, as in past years.

Also, in this connection, he said: Everyone must know that rationalizing away religious duty, if it is possible to do so, is treason to God, His messenger, and the faithful.

Nejabat then said: The rumors or the alert enemies and ignorant friends must be rapidly neutralized. To those who in private and nonprivate meetings speak of the dismissal and resignation of the president in order to advance themselves, the best answer was given by the president, who said, There are the statements of the counterrevolutionaries, and they are lies.

In conclusion, the speaker thanked the president and the speaker of the Majles for giving audience to the members of the Islamic Association of Iranian Physicians.

Mohammad Hadi 'Abd-e Khoda'i, Deputy From Mashhad

'Abd-Khoda'i, as another preagenda speaker, said: Once again the bloodthirsty hand of global oppressors came out of the criminal sleeve of the merciless and hard-hearted and created the greatest tragedy of the century in the shrine of Imam Reza. The supporters of the Yazid of the Age created another 'Ashura and exploded to pieces or maimed the pure bodies of dozens of eager pilgrims during prayers, pilgrimage, and worship.

He added: These bloodthirsty fiends have neither respect for the sacred sanctuary of the guardian nor any consideration for the innocent and defenseless people, those who were praying and worshipping at the upper part of the shrine of the Infallible Imam. Shame on them, who have neither any humanity in them nor think about the day of judgment. No language can express the amount of cruelty, and no pen can write about such a crime. Global oppressors and their bloodthirsty supporters must know that our brave nation will by no means give up the long step it has taken on the path of Islam and towards its lofty goals, not at any price.

He asked for the prosecution of the perpetrators of this horrible crime and stated his concern that the executive officials take the necessary precautions to prevent such sinister incidents.

Mir-Naqi Qazipur, Deputy From Ardabil

The last preagenda speaker was Qazipur from Ardabil, who thanked God for the presence of the leader and, thanking the grand leader for his guidance, who instructed the mourners of Hoseyn to avoid superstitious actions, also praised the people for following his statements.

He added: The people participated in magnificent and orderly mourning processions. In the past years, a large number of people engaged in self-laceration. On the directives of the grand leader of the revolution, not even one case of self-laceration or violation of the instructions of the guardian of Muslims was observed. With this action, in fact, you have expressed your allegiance to Imam Hoseyn and pleased God.

In conclusion, he condemned the bombing in the pure shrine of Imam Reza by the blind-hearted hypocrites.

Ratifications

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was to determine the summer holidays of the Majles. The first proposal of the Board of Directors in this regard was to close the Majles from 19 Tir to 10 Mordad [10 July-1 August], which was not ratified and was rejected. The next proposal was to begin summer holidays after the ratification of the first round of discussions on the Second Five-Year Plan in the Majles, which will take until the end of Mordad [22 August]. This proposal was ratified by the deputies.

It is noteworthy that from this week the open session of the Majles shall be only on Sundays and Wednesdays, and during this period the sessions of the combined committee for the examination of the Second Developmental Plan will be held.

The second item on the agenda was a report on the first round of discussions of the proposal to amend the law on oral and dental hygienists in order to expand treatment and health services to villages, ratified on 23/01/60 [12 April 1981], of which the general points were ratified.

The proposal states:

Amending Note 8. Those persons mentioned in this law may, after serving six years in those villages stated in this law, take part in the special examination that will be held every year by the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education and continue studying in the field of dentistry. The above-mentioned individuals are not restricted as to the number of times they may take the

examination; they may take them as many times as they wish while serving in the villages. The expenditures needed for the special examination mentioned in this note shall be provided from funds that are collected from these applicants by the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education as registration fees.

The last item on the agenda was the bill on agreements for labor, workers, and social cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Government of Qatar, which was ratified by the Majles.

Related Material

* Minister, Hamedan Deputy, Exchange Views

* Response to Hamedan Deputy

94LA0192A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Jun 94 p 4

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. In connection with the preagenda speech dated 10/03/1373 [31 May 1994] by the deputy from Hamedan in the Majles, which referred to the Ministry of Mines and Metals and the granting of deadline and bonus pay to reporters, the public relations office of that ministry sent a response to the newspaper, the text of which we call to your attention.

After hearing the speech of Mr. Habibian, the honorable deputy of Hamedan, in his preagenda speech in the open session of the Majles on 10/03/1373 [31 May 1994], it is necessary to inform the noble people of Iran of some brief points.

Mr. Habibian once visited the headquarters of the Ministry of Mines and Metals and, upon observing that some of the floors were covered with Hamedan stones (that is from his constituency), in a gathering of the beloved workers of Hamedan, made some baseless and discouraging accusations against this ministry, concluding that the officials of the country, instead of improving the condition of the oppressed in the country, spend the funds of the Treasury on Italian stones in their offices and places of work. Sufficient and documented explanations were presented to him. But the speech would certainly have its negative effect on the hard-working spirit and pure and hopeful views of our working stratum.

His second accusation was that some of the production units of this ministry suffer several billion dollars in annual losses, and he mentioned the source of the information to be the General Accounting Office. But it remains unclear why in the same breath of responding to this criticism in the open session of the honorable Majles he was forced to frequently orally and in writing change the figures with the intention of correcting them, and ultimately his efforts in trying to correct the figures were of no use. After the session ended, he held interviews with newspapers and changed the figures again. Moreover, he forgot to clarify who was the domestic or foreign provider or creditor of these several billion dollar losses. He had forgotten that essentially the basis of any sort of operation of the accounting office is not the dollar, and it was unclear whether these several billion dollars were at the government, competitive, open-market, or floating rate.

Continuing his persistent and insistent illusions, Mr. Habibian considered it his duty to come without prior notice and with the purpose of catching the government officials red-handed to a session that was organized by the public relations office of this ministry that had invited the representatives of the media and openly search for the coins that would be given by the honorable minister of mines and metals or the parliamentary affairs deputy to the reporters, not realizing that on the same day and at the same hour the minister was outside Tehran, the related deputy was hosting the directors of the free zones, and the head of the administration of the Supreme Council of Regions was in another meeting and that essentially the exchange of such a gift by the officials of the ministry to the honorable invitees was not supposed to happen.

This repeated illusion made him so frustrated that he noted a voucher that the cooperative company of the former employees of the Ministry of Mines and Metals had issued on their own and blamed its issuance accompanied by false accusations on the officials of Mines and Metals. It is interesting that despite the fact that he expressed all these false statements from the sacred podium of the Majles in the open session, speaking at such general assemblies as the gathering of the workers of Hamedan province, he also believes in discussions and avoiding press commotion.

Certainly, a little attention to the above, which clarifies the positions and views of Mr. Habibian, raises these questions in the mind of any expert or nonexpert:

1. Does he believe that—

A ministry, the annual production of steel of which is 5 million tons;

A ministry that has annual exports of more than $500 million;

A ministry that in all other areas, such as production of copper, aluminum, gold, decorative stones, etc., has had a severalfold increase in its operations in the past four years;

A ministry whose data and figures of operation have been regularly commended as the pride of the industry and economy of the country by the highest officials of the country;

A ministry that has had more than $1.4 billion in exports in the First Plan, more than $10 billion in production in the First Plan, and $20 billion in the Second Plan, needs a gift of 5,000 tumans to sustain itself?

2. While the highest officials of the country and the administrators of the revolution simply and without any control are accused of enormous waste, how can the administrators of the revolution be encouraged and forced to accept responsibility and make decision in executive affairs?

3. And are managers who are responsible for enormous waste so narrow-minded to think that such issues can be kept hidden with 5,000 tumans in foods, purchasing bonuses from the clear-sighted people and scrutinizing journalists?

4. Would a freed prisoner of war who has endured 10 years of his life being tortured in captivity sell his honor for 5,000 tumans? Is such an individual who in preserving the dignity of the journalists who are the recorders of the glory, manifestations, and gifts of our revolution not more eager than Mr. Habibian? Certainly a freed prisoner of war who did not fall to his knees during 10 years of captivity in the dungeons of Saddam's prisons would not despair with such accusations. But Mr. Habibian, who considers himself a Basiji, must also know that in questioning the pride of a ministry, he has in fact questioned some of the fruits of the Islamic revolution and may have caused despair for some of the effective and useful individuals in regards to the future of the revolution as well. Certainly, this action is unforgivable before God, and when the honorable officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and especially the grand leader and the heads of the three branches are continuously trying to preserve the gift of hope and struggle in various strata of our nation, causing people despair cannot be justified.

The Public Relations Office

* Response to Mines, Metal Minister

94LA0192B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Jun 94 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The response of the Ministry of Mines and Metals to the statements of Mr. Habibian, deputy from Hamedan, was published on Wednesday, 18/03/1373 [8 June 1994] in the newspaper. Following the publication of that response, the following text was placed at the disposal of the newspaper by the deputy from Hamedan.

After asking the question of Mr. Mahluji, the honorable minister of mines and metals, in the open session of the Majles on 27/02/1373 [18 May 1994] in connection with the losses of the steel factories and steel mill and my preagenda speech on 10/03/1373 [31 May 1994], in connection with the untimely invitation of journalists and granting purchasing vouchers to these dear ones, I did not believe that the honorable Ministry of Mines and Metals would try to justify its actions and give a response that is liked by the public.

In his speech in the Tehran Friday prayer on 06/03/1373 [27 May 1994], that is, 10 days after the question and in the heat of inquiry and investigation by the Majles concerning the operations of the ministry and the readiness of the deputies to question him, after presenting a list of the work of the ministry concerning the increasing production of metals, the minister concluded his speech with this sentence: "Certainly alongside these advancements a number of people suffered losses and their interests are threatened such that they try to question the result of these actions."

Indeed, if he means the members of the Inquiry and Investigation Committee, it means that he so openly insults the concerned and reform-seeking deputies and accuses them of being opportunists who want to fish in muddy water and by questioning the minister protect their illegitimate interests. And if he is referring to me, which I think to be the case (considering my question in the recent days), I must say: You have shot at the wrong target, because I am proud to be a self-sacrificing Basiji and have no worldly possessions. And because of the oath I have taken on the Koran upon entering the Majles, I am determined that as a small member of the Accounting Office to inform the noble nation of Iran of the violations of the ministries, after consultation with experts and reliance on God.

More surprising than the speech of the minister was the response that his honorable ministry prepared in connection with my statements and sent to the highly circulated published domestic newspapers of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI and SALAM on 17/03/1373 [7 June 1994]. If a reader is aware of the question and answer at the open session and my preagenda speech, by reading this response he will realize that the ministry is in a whirlpool from which it is trying to save itself in any way possible. This response has called and considered my legal and documented actions an illusion, first illusion, second illusion, etc. I must say that it is the Ministry of Mines and Metals that with its position suffers from illusion and tries to cause illusion for the readers. Anyone who might visit the Mines and Metals Building and see the strange and astonishing decoration and the blue decorative stones and at that moment think about the thousands of hungry and shelterless families and unemployed youth will undoubtedly be happy that a concerned deputy devoid of any interest has exposed such waste and extravagance and following the grand leader has engaged in constructive criticism of an organization with great expenditures.

But the ministry, in defense of its actions in regards to the use of decorative stones, reverses the argument and instead of discussing the issue of waste and extravagance accuses me by saying that the stones are not Italian but from Hamedan. Whether they are from Hamedan or Italy, what are they doing under the feet of the simple employees of this ministry? The place of the stone is in the exhibit to show to foreign customers. You must determine if it is deserving of the status of the Islamic Republic to have such a building.

What has confused and essentially forced the honorable officials of the ministry to take irrational positions more than anything else are the data and figures that I announced in connection with losses in the organizations under the supervision of the ministry. Both the minister in the Majles and the writer of the response have tried to discredit the data. Because of the shortage of time in the Majles, I read one or two items from various places and immediately gave the minister the corrected figures. But, nevertheless, instead of reading the figures that were given, he followed a diversionary course in the discussion and pretended that these figures are either exaggerated or false. In the interview on the following day, we explained that the figures did not affect the one-year operation of the companies, but the five-year operation. Nevertheless, this exaggeration, that is, the one-year figures for the five years, was repeated in the response. [sentence as published] It is interesting that these figures were obtained from the accounting office, and in frequent contacts with the honorable director of the office, the figures and data were verified.

Another anxiety of the ministry was in regards to my unexpected presence in the gathering of reporters, on which I reported to the noble nation in my preagenda speech.

As I had said, with religious motivation and in performing my role as a deputy and a member of the accounting committee, after the invitation to lunch extended to the journalists by the public relations office and the granting of gifts, I left to go there and saw what happened firsthand. The story was as I had heard, the difference being that the gifts, which were vouchers for purchasing goods in the amount of 5,000 tumans, were given to those invited after my departure. The writer of the response accuses me of lying and accusing the officials of the ministry, not realizing that I am clear of these accusations, and the story of the vouchers was as it was stated in the report. If the ministry has a claim in this regard, I am prepared to show the documents.

I did not intend to take any steps in answering the response of the gentlemen. But since the situation of this ministry is more dire than one can imagine, again in accordance with religious duty and by divination with the Koran, I took this step, so that the above-mentioned ministry will not use the press and the media to label the deputies of the people.

Ahmad Habibian, deputy from Hamedan

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